

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A PRIMA FACIE CASE THAT
17 OIL COMPANIES CONSPIRED TO INJURE ZAMBIA AND ALL THE DEFENDANTS
CAN BE SUMMONED TO ANSWER THE CHARGES WITHIN THE COUNTRY, A LUSAKA
HIGH COURT JUDGE IS REPORTED TO HAVE RULED HERE.

ACCORDING TO BOTH THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA AND THE ZAMBIA DAILY
MAIL, MR. JUSTICE VASANT DESAI GRANTED LEAVE TO ISSUE CONCURENT
WRITS AGAINST THE INTENDED DEFENDERS OF THE FIRMS.

THE COMPANIES MUST APPEAR AT LUSAKA HIGH COURT WITHIN 40 DAYS FROM
THE DATE THEY RECEIVE THE SUMMONSES, REPORT THE TWO PAPERS.

IN ONE OF THE OPENING SHOTS TO THE LOOMING LEGAL CONFRONTATION
BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND SOME OF THE WORLD'S GIANT OIL COMPANIES OVER
THE EFFECTS OF UDI IN NEIGHBORING RHODESIA, THE JUDGE RULED THAT
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THE 17 DEFENDANTS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY ARE NECESSARY
PARTIES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF ZAMBIA.

MEANWHILE, MORE THAN 100 CURFEW BREAKERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND WILL
SOON APPEAR IN COURT, A POLICE SPOKESMAN HAS SAID.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAS ALSO REFUTED REPORTS EMANTING FROM

RHODESIA THAT ABOUT 250 CUBAN SOLDIERS AND MILITARY ADVISERS WERE BEING MOVED INTO ZAMBIA UNDER THE COVER OF THE CURFEW. THE SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE REPORTS AS "NONSENSICAL AND STUPID." HE ALSO DENIED THAT OPPONENTS OF THE RULING UNIP HAD BEEN ROUNDED UP.

COMMENTING ON THIS, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA WRITES THAT "THERE ARE NO OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SUFFICIENT STATURE TO JUSTIFY THE IMPOSITION OF A CURFEW AND BLACKOUT IN FOUR MAJOR CENTRES, INCLUDING THE CAPITAL".

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER, ACCORDING TO THE PARTY-OWNED NEWSPAPER, IS THAT A LOT OF ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POLICIES ARE NOT POPULAR WITH THOSE OUTSIDERS WHO THINK THAT "WE ARE REFUSING TO CONFORM."

"BEING A PUPPET OF NEITHER THE WEST NOR THE EAST, WE EASILY INVITE CURIOSITY, DOUBT AND ULTIMATELY FRUSTRATED CONTEMPT," THE TIMES EDITORIAL SAYS.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, SWAPO, THE SOUTHWEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, HAS RESERVED COMMENT ON THE INVITATION BY NAMIBIA'S NEW ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL, JUSTICE MARTHINUS STEYN, TO GRANT SAFE CONDUCT TO SWAPO LEADERS WHO MAY GO BACK TO NAMIBIA TO DISCUSS THAT COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

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SWAPO ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, MOSES GAROEB, DECLINED COMMENT UNTIL SWAPO WAS "OFFICIALLY APPROACHED," THE MAIL REPORTS. ITEM USIS LUSAKA. BURNS

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